



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Thursday, September 13, 2012**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Boston Public Health Commission (“Commission”) was held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 in the Hayes Conference Room at the Commission’s offices at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Boston, MA 02118.

**Board Members Present:**

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH, Chair  
Ruth Ellen Fitch, JD  
Harold Cox  
Celia Wcislo  
Jack Cradock

**Also Present Were:**

Barbara Ferrer, Huy Nguyen, John Townsend, Fatema Fazendeiro, PJ McCann, Kathy Hussey, Chuck Gagnon, Jim Imprescia, John Lyons, Vijeta Limbekai, Leon Bethune, Nick Martin, Scott Mason, Aileen Shen, Pam Jones, Anne McHugh, James Hooley, Margaret Reid and Daisy De La Rosa.

**Proceedings:**

***Chairwoman’s Comments***

*Paula Johnson, MD, MPH*

- Chairwoman Johnson welcomed back Maia BrodyField from maternity leave. She also recognized and welcomed Fatema Fazendeiro as the new General Counsel and Kathy Hussey as the new Board Secretary.
- The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. The minutes of the board meeting held on July 12, 2012 were approved.

***Executive Director’s Report***

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

- Dr. Ferrer welcomed the return of Ms. BrodyField and recognized both Ms. Fazendeiro and Ms. Hussey in their new roles.
- Dr. Ferrer thanked the Board for going paperless but emphasized that packets could be couriered when necessary.
- Dr. Ferrer called upon Attorney Fazendeiro to give an update on the Trinity Redevelopment Project for 35 Northampton Street. Ms. Fazendeiro reminded the Board that the project is now divided into three distinct phases, the first one being the rehabilitation of the high rise at 35 Northampton Street. Notable events on the project

since the last Board meeting included: Two community meetings held in August 2012 where the plans for the redevelopment of just 35 Northampton Street were shared with residents and the community, which were well-received. The only concerns expressed related to whether the renovations of 35 Northampton Street would affect the South End Fitness Center, including the in-door pool and the basketball court. Also in August, Trinity formally filed its Project Notification Form and its Chapter 121A application to the BRA for phase I of the project, which is the rehabilitation of 35 Northampton Street only. Finally, on September 13, 2012, the BRA board voted and approved the plans submitted by Trinity for the redevelopment of 35 Northampton Street and waived any further scoping review. This meant that the project is on its way to receive the necessary permits to begin the redevelopment.

- Dr. Ferrer discussed a meeting she led with members of the South End Fitness Center in August to clarify the process of phase I of the renovations and to understand the members' concerns about the fitness center and pool. Dr. Ferrer thought it was a very positive meeting overall and that the members were supportive of the much-needed renovations. Dr. Ferrer stated that although the members want the Commission and the Board to preserve the pool throughout all phases of the project, Dr. Ferrer explained to them the significant financial hardship about doing the same. Dr. Ferrer explained that currently the pool needs repairs that will cost roughly \$500,000, which the Commission does not have. Moreover, Dr. Ferrer explained that City Hall is reluctant to provide the capital to make the necessary repairs when the pool is underutilized and not currently open to families and children in the community.
- Several Board members expressed concern about spending \$500,000 to renovate the pool that was not serving the low-income residents and community members with children. Several Board members also requested to see actual data about the utilization of the pool, the cost per member breakdown of such use, and data for the costs to repair the pool.
- Chairwoman Johnson suggested that the Board be presented with the actual data at the next Board meeting, which would then enable the Board to make recommendations whether to approve the repair and preservation of the pool.

#### ***VOTE***

Giving Signatory Authority to Fatema Fazendeiro as General Counsel

- Board Members unanimously approved Signatory Authority to Fatema Fazendeiro as General Counsel

#### ***Cedar Grove Cemetery Expansion***

Fatema Fazendeiro, General Counsel

OEH Staff

John Lyons, Esq. attorney for Cedar Grove Cemetery

- Attorney Fazendeiro explained that state law requires that the board of health approve any new cemetery or the expansion of an existing cemetery but that prior to such approval, notice and hearing to interested persons must be provided. In this case, Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester made several acquisitions since 1975 and while it received the necessary permits to make interments therein, the acquisitions themselves had never been approved by our Board because the Commission in its current form has only existed since 1996. Cedar Grove requested retroactive approval for acquisitions and interments made since 1975.
- The Board was provided with a description of the parcels of land that had been acquired

and Ms. Fazendeiro explained that the parcels of land appeared to have valid deeds and there is no dispute that Cedar Grove has title to these lands.

- Ms. Fazendeiro explained that there does not appear to be any zoning or planning concerns about these parcels of land. In the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) maps provided by Cedar Grove, it appears the BRA already recognizes these parcels of land as part of the cemetery. Cedar Grove has also received the necessary Use of Premises Permit from Boston Inspectional Services (ISD) for its most recent acquisition and is working with ISD to legalize its prior acquisitions with respect to zoning approval.
- The Commission's Office of Environmental Hazards Division conducted a site visit to the cemetery and inspected the subject parcels of land. No known or apparent environmental hazards were presented.
- The Board voted to submit the matter to the public for comment with a hearing scheduled for October 11, 2012 prior to taking any substantive vote to approve Cedar Grove's acquisitions.

***Update: NeighborCare & Innovations in Primary Care***

Huy Nguyen, M.D., Medical Director

- Dr. Nguyen stated that NeighborCare is an initiative the Mayor announced last March to increase the use of community health centers for urgent and sick care, to raise awareness of the high quality care and the benefits that are available at the community health centers and to reduce the emergency room uses for complaints which do not require emergency or specialty care.
- The message of the campaign is that your primary care provider at your community health center can best support you when you're sick. Board Member Wcislo asked if that meant the centers would be able to do same day appointments and Dr. Ferrer indicated that a lot of them do so already.
- The other components of the campaign include the development of tool kits and cards for patients containing the triage number for their health center and more information about hours, appointments and walk-ins. Dr. Nguyen stated that soon there will be a print campaign where billboards around the city will advertise the tool kits and cards for patients.
- Chairwoman Johnson stated that this is really a remarkable piece of work because the tone has been around what is best for the community and how as healthcare providers, we can create the best possible way for patients to connect with our system.
- Dr. Nguyen then spoke of the Mayoral prize for Innovations in Primary care. Dr. Nguyen emphasized that this an initiative in which the Board has been involved. Dr. Johnson has chaired the planning committee for the last three (3) years. The Mayoral prize for innovation in primary care arose from the Mayor's Primary Care Task Force. The goal of the prize is to both award and recognize but also to stimulate and encourage innovations in primary care in the City of Boston. The prize is awarded in three (3) categories this year: healthcare, community and workplace.
- This year the Mayor and the planning committee thought it would be a great opportunity to engage and to recognize the important input from our academic centers. These are schools of public health and schools of medicine here in Boston. Dr. Nguyen stated that the Commission was fortunate to have sponsorship by Boston University School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health.
- The applications that were received this year showed a real growth in the quality of the applicants and also the diversity of the applicants. There were varied approaches to

improve primary care in Boston.

- Chairwoman Johnson stated that the Institute of Medicine and Public Safety issued their report this year on public health and primary care. She believes that the Commission's work and leadership on this issue has really been phenomenal and leading the way across the community.

***Update: Bike Program***

Anne McHugh, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Division

Daisy De La Rosa, Project Director, CPPW Obesity Program

- Anne McHugh presented and acknowledged that the Bike Program was a collaborative effort that included input by Daisy De La Rosa, Margaret Reid from Healthy Homes and Community Supports and Aileen Shen from Injury Prevention. Ms. McHugh also acknowledged the leadership efforts of Dr. Nguyen and Chief Hooley at EMS with respect to the injury prevention work.
- Ms. McHugh explained that there has been a transformation in terms of bicycling in Boston and that the Mayor has made remarkable strides to make Boston a more bike-friendly place. Boston moved from one of the lowest ranked bike friendly cities to getting the silver award level for being a bike friendly community in 2011 from the League of American Bicyclists. The city has added 52 miles of bike lanes, which is up from zero in 2007 and an amazing accomplishment.
- Hubway, a bike share program, has made great strides in the Bike Program. This is the second year of its operation. In the first season, which opened in July 2011, there were 61 stations and 600 bikes. In that first year there was a log of 142,000 trips; 57% were by members and 3700 people became members last year. That exceeded all benchmarks for usage and there were no significant operational or safety problems.
- The second season opened in March and runs through the end of November. The program has now expanded to Cambridge, Somerville and Brookline and is all interchangeable. By the end of this season there will be 72 stations in Boston. So far in the season through July, there have been 239,000 trips by about 7500 members.
- The HubWay individual annual membership is \$85.00 per calendar year. Subsidized memberships are \$5.00 for low income residents and are made possible through our CPPW funding. There is also now a corporate membership which is like a bulk rate if an employer signs up for multiple memberships and that it is \$50.00 net price. The Commission is planning to participate in the membership program which would reduce the membership cost for our employees to \$37.00.
- The Commission is trying to promote bike usage in terms as a means of physical activity but also for purposes of health equity. The Commission is most interested in targeting people who have the burden of obesity such as Black and Latino residents and making sure that bikes are accessible to them and all the neighborhoods in Boston.
- Ms. McHugh noted that some barriers to using HubWay include lack of understanding of how it all works and concerns about using a credit card and how to pay. Ms. McHugh stated that Ms. De La Rosa has developed strategies to overcome these barriers such as getting Hubway to not charge for the first hour of use and getting information out about HubWay in different languages such as Spanish.
- Ms. McHugh stated that the Commission has also supported community bike programs such as Boston Bikes by getting used bikes refurbished and distributed to youth and adults in our neighborhoods.
- Finally, the Commission is leading efforts for bike safety which is the promotion of

helmet use. The Commission's goal is to discuss and have a plan on how to achieve universal helmet use to reduce in head injuries and death. There are two main strategies: launching a public awareness campaign and distribution of low cost and free helmets.

- Dr. Ferrer stated that there has been a lot of pushback from bicycle enthusiasts who feel strongly about not wearing helmets and completely oppose a mandatory helmet law. She stated that we have compromised on the issue by agreeing to do public education first and see whether or not there is an increase in helmet use before resorting to policy or regulatory mechanisms.

### *Adjournment*

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted By:

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Kathy Hussey, Secretary